

deals in thousands of pounds. The impulses of love may be satisfied by marriage—more often it may well be, amongst the poor than amongst the rich. I Esthetic impulses may be gratified by a street organ, and if they are developed more abundantly by the rich, the poor have, as compensation, ampler upwellings of the ethical aspirations that are manifested by the self-denial of wives for their families and the astonishing generosity of the working man. Poverty may be unacquainted with the pleasures that are derived from luxurious sensation—may not be tickled by the taste of truffles and champagne. But happiness is more desirable than pleasure. And the poor are, at all events, untroubled by the bands which are suffered by respectability in maintaining appearances before the world. One may, then, easily be too severe in condemning modern society. Pessimistic criticism is very attractive : indirectly it flatters one's own ideals. It is probable, indeed, that the strictures of moralists and divines have overrated considerably the extravagances and miseries of the past: and in future centuries a student of our times may be seriously misled by much that he may come across in the accounts that we are giving of ourselves in current literature.<sup>1</sup> Human society has, then, developed into its present complexity by the progressive adoption

and abandonment of various ideals. or  
habits of  
mind. Submissiveness to a patriarch  
or a tyrant.  
has given way before notions of  
deference to the  
majority, of liberty and equality. The  
idea of

"Is not there too much shadow in this opinion of Mr.  
Frederic  
Harrison's?" "Our present type of society is, in  
many respects,  
one of the most horrible that has ever existed in the  
world's history  
—boundless luxury and self-indulgence at one end of  
the scale, and  
at the other a condition of life as cruel as that of a  
Roman slave.  
and more degraded than that of a South Sea  
Islander."